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Title: Young HIMMS (Human Papillomavirus in men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM) study): exploring the views of young MSM and healthcare professionals (HCPs) to targeted HPV vaccination.

Background: UK MSM are offered HPV vaccination opportunistically by Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) clinics and general practice (GP). Vaccination is most effective prior to HPV exposure.

Methods: Mixed method study including questionnaires and focus groups or interviews with young (16-24 years) MSM, and GPs and GUM HCPs. T-tests and logistic regression were used to analyse the quantitative data and a thematic analysis of the qualitative data was performed.

Results: 18 MSM (mean age 20 years) participated. 11 (55.6%) were aware of HPV. Vaccine knowledge (mean score 66%) was higher than HPV knowledge (58.5%). MSM viewed HPV vaccination as having more benefits than harms. Majority of MSM had not discussed HPV vaccination with HCPs (83.3%). Focus groups revealed barriers to vaccination including experiencing conversations about sexuality with HCPs as 'unfamiliar and clinical'. MSM preferred being offered the vaccine by HCPs rather than requesting it. 87 HCPs (mean age 41 years, 44% GPs) completed questionnaires. 25% had vaccinated MSM against HPV (two GPs). GPs were less likely than GUM HCPs to believe there was sufficient evidence for vaccinating young? MSM (OR 0.07 95% CI 0.01, 0.59); less likely to have skills to identify MSM who may benefit (OR 0.03 95% CI 0.01, 0.15); and less confident recommending young MSM vaccination (OR 0.06 95% CI 0.02, 0.21).

Discussion: Young MSM may need education and support to take up HPV vaccination. Young MSM in this study would prefer to be offered the vaccine. GP may be the preferred setting for vaccination, but GPs need education/support.

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